

THE OREGON SCOUT.

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IN A SERPENT'S COILS.

The Experience of an Indian Hunter Who Fought a Boa Constrictor.

In company with a half-breed who combined the vocations of a woodman and hunter, I stumbled one day on a large specimen of the crotalus mutus, slowly winding its way among the leaf debris of the forest. For some time it was difficult to discern the scaly folds of the snake through the brown mass of decaying foliage, but having reached a clear spot the reptile coiled around a low stump and prepared for action. About a yard of the body next to the head was contracted into numerous sharp curves not unlike a corkscrew, while the yellow eyes gleamed with a baleful light.

There was little fascination about these orbs, and no mistaking the malignant intentions of their owner. A stick brought within reach of that mortal coil was struck almost with the rapidity of lightning, no matter how swiftly withdrawn. This was affected by the instantaneous straightening of the short curves into which this portion of the body had been contracted. Even the wily mongoose would have needed all his marvelous agility to avoid the deadly stroke if once within range. The reach was about a yard, and the assault was delivered horizontally some six inches from the ground, directly toward the assailant. The hunter, who had hitherto kept a respectful distance, as he alleged the snake could spring, was eventually persuaded to approach sufficiently near to strike it with a ten-foot pole.

At the first blow the heavy coils relaxed from the stump and the creature appeared dead or stunned. The writer at once grasped the neck about two inches from the head and raised the head partly from the ground to examine it. As though galvanized into life by the touch, the crotalus seemed at once to recover its energies, and swiftly made a couple of turns around the thigh and right arm of the would-be captor. The constricting power exercised was such that the hand grasping the neck began to lose power, and the writer realized the awkward predicament into which his temerity had led him. Little could be done with the free left hand, while the "scaly terror" began slowly to withdraw its head from the relaxing grasp of the right.

For some seconds the trembling woodman appeared deaf to entreaty and could not be persuaded to apply a noose or liana to the snake's neck. The largest serpents become paralyzed when properly noosed, and are readily dragged along the ground, helpless as a log. Just as the snake's head seemed about to ooze through the numbed fingers, the half breed screwed up his courage sufficiently to apply the liana as directed, with the result that the brute relaxed its coils and was dragged down to a neighboring stream, hung up and skinned. It measured eight feet five inches and was about as thick in the largest part of the body as the calf of a man's leg.

The fangs, which were carefully extracted, measured one and a quarter inches in length, and were hollow to within a short distance of the point, where, on the inner side, lay the orifice through which the poison was ejected by the action of the base of the fang on the bag in which it was secreted. On squeezing the bag a small quantity of poison, a yellow fluid, passed down the hollow in the tooth and gathered in a tiny drop of concentrated death. The stomach contained two wood-rats about the size of guinea pigs, one partially digested, the other recently swallowed.—India Statesman.

THE MODERN CLERGYMAN.

How He Differs from the Preachers of Washington's Day.

The average clergyman of Washington's day wielded much more influence, in certain ways, than the clergyman of to-day. The modern clergyman is no longer an oracle. He is not necessarily the most cultivated or the most learned man of his congregation. He no longer does the thinking for his flock, even in the domain of religion. The magazine and the newspaper preach to vastly larger audiences than he can ever hope to have. The halo of sacerdotalism has almost disappeared from around his brow, even in the churches where sacerdotalism most flourishes. A clergyman is not esteemed nowadays simply and only because the hand of a bishop or elder has been laid upon his head, or because an ecclesiastical council has set him apart from the rest of mankind. It is his character, and not his office, that gives him a claim on the good will of men.

But if the influence of the clergy has been lessened in some ways, it has been increased in others. The old feudal idea of the ministry as a caste is giving way to the new democratic idea of the ministry as a moral force in the community. The world to-day demands that the clergyman shall be first of all a teacher and a follower of pure morality, and the exponent of the best thought of the age. He may be a priest of God, ordained to offer sacrifice in the temple; but he must also be a priest of humanity, daily offering the sacrifice of a pure and exalted example in the great temple of secular life. The world cares little for the mysterious powers conveyed by the laying on of hands; but it cares much for the visible gifts of exalted goodness, high intelligence and enlightened progress. And the clergyman who leads their age in these things will receive its homage and devotion.—N. Y. Tribune.

EASTERN ITEMS.

A HEAVY YIELD OF WHEAT IN KANSAS.

A Deposit of Zinc Ore—Cut Rates on Freight—Murderers Lynched—The Flooded Districts—Lady Pall-Bearers.

Baltimore has 4000 saloons. Chris Buckley is in Chicago.

One death from sunstroke reported at Chicago.

Kittie Brown won the six-days' bicycle race at Denver.

John Gilbert, the great actor, died in Boston on the 17th.

At the South this season has been the coldest for many years.

The present permanent population of Oklahoma is about 20,000.

The warm weather is thinning out the office-seekers in Washington.

Nineteen horses started in the American Derby, at Chicago, last Sunday.

Berkeley Springs, W. V., has recovered from the effects of the late flood.

The New York boodle Alderman cases will be tried at Saratoga July 9th.

Bradstreet's calculates the entire loss by the floods at about \$45,000,000.

The International Typographical Union will meet at Atlanta, Ga., next year.

Two murderers were hanged by a mob in Scott county, Tennessee, recently.

Prohibition in Pennsylvania was defeated by an overwhelming majority.

Trunk-Line Commissioner Fink, with headquarters at New York, has resigned.

The total flood losses of the Pennsylvania Railroad are stated at \$13,000,000.

Iowa is talking about building a \$100,000 soldiers' monument at Des Moines.

Rose Coghlan and her husband, Clinton J. Edgerly, have separated temporarily.

The test of the pneumatic gun carriage at Annapolis, Md., recently, proved satisfactory.

The next convention of the order of the Mystic Shrine will be held in San Francisco.

Boston is reported as leading America with its educational exhibit at the Paris Exposition.

The schools in Wollaston, Mass., have been closed, owing to the prevalence of diphtheria.

The Government has resumed operations at Flood Rock improvements, Hell Gate, N. Y.

The hay crop of New York State this year is expected to be almost unprecedentedly large.

A deposit of zinc ore of workable quality has been discovered in Marion county, Ark.

The debris at the stone bridge below Johnstown, Penn., was set on fire on the 16th inst.

The Paris to select a site for the navy yard on the Northwest coast, favors Port Orchard, W. T.

It is said that an effort is being made to form a trust of all the big dry goods stores in America.

The battlefields of Gettysburg and Antietam are now connected by the Western Maryland Railroad.

The members of the American Pharmaceutical Convention, to be held at San Francisco, have arrived.

The crops throughout Indiana, and also much riparian property, was severely damaged by recent rains.

Missionary bodies are delighted with the announcement of Mr. Huntington's Congo Railway enterprise.

J. O. Manion and R. M. Fowler fought a street duel at Fayette, Mo., on the 15th, and both were fatally shot.

At the funeral of a young man named Rice, at Shamokin, Penn., four young ladies were the pall-bearers.

The flood in Pennsylvania knocked the prohibition campaign endwise and the State has gone "wet."

The Trenton Rock Oil Company, the oldest company in the Ohio field, has been sold to the Standard.

Howard of Electric Sugar fame has been found guilty of grand larceny in the first degree at New York.

Bonham, Texas, is rejoicing over the discovery of oil at a depth of 860 feet in the northern part of the city.

Cut rates in freight are made between New York and St. Paul. The war has been opened for the summer.

Forty indictments were found by the Federal Grand Jury at Indianapolis for violation of the election laws.

A gas well has been drilled in at Findlay, Ohio, with a capacity of over seven million cubic feet per day.

Minnesota is considering the proposition to put the convicts to work making binding-twine, to circumvent the Twine Trust.

The Mormons who are flocking into the northwest of Manitoba are said to claim that they have a right to practice polygamy if they want to.

The feminine defendant in a divorce case at Rockford, Ill., was defended by a woman lawyer, probably the first instance of the kind on record.

Attorney-General Miller has accepted the resignations of the United States Marshals for Florida and South Carolina, and of District-Attorney Peters, of Utah.

Special Treasury Agents Crowley and Mulkey have been ordered from San Francisco to Port Townsend to investigate frauds in the customs service there.

Kansas will harvest the largest wheat crop, this season, that has been produced in that State for years. It is estimated that the yield will be fully thirty million bushels.

Mrs. Hayes, wife of ex-President Hayes, died at 6:30 o'clock last Tuesday morning, 25th inst., at her home, in Fremont, Ohio, after an illness of several weeks.

FOREIGN FLASHES.

Mormon Missionaries in Liverpool—The Prosecution of Boulanger—Anarchy in Crete—Railroads Building in Africa.

The King of Spain has just entered on his fourth year.

Corke, Ireland, has raised \$1200 for the Johnstown sufferers.

The Spanish war-ship Paz has foundered off Cape Trafalgar.

The French senate advises the immediate prosecution of Boulanger.

Princess Matternich is revisiting Paris, and great attention is paid to her.

Russia threatens the Shah of Persia if he makes concessions to England.

Complete anarchy prevails in Crete. Outrages and murders are frequent.

A dog tax of France gives the State an annual revenue of about \$1,500,000.

The sailors' strike at English and Scottish ports is on the eve of collapsing.

In England check re-ins are now entirely out of use, being forbidden by law.

There are three leprosy cases on Cape Breton, N. S., two women and one man.

Smoking during service is said to be customary in some of the rural churches in Holland.

England and Ireland are overrun with Americans traveling in parties of from forty to 400.

William Walter Phelps has sailed from Europe with the Samoan Treaty in his possession.

A plan to connect the Siberian rivers by canals is projected by the Russian Government.

Another woman has been murdered in one of the compartments of an English railroad train.

Kaid McLean, a Scotchman, is Commander-in-Chief of the Army of the Sultan of Morocco.

In Prussia the State railroads make special concessions in favor of poor people in ill-health.

Buffalo Bill at Paris, recently, gave a benefit for the Conemaugh sufferers, and \$2000 was realized.

Mrs. Maybrick has been committed at London, for trial, on the charge of murdering her husband.

Official reports concerning the prospects of the Russian wheat crop this season are unfavorable.

Two Americans are suspected of robbing a jewelry store at Leipzig of goods valued at 75,000 marks.

Dowager Empress Augusta of Germany has subscribed 1000 marks in aid of the Pennsylvania sufferers.

Proceedings will be continued against the friends of Boulanger, who were arrested in Angoulême, France.

The Paris Le Temps asserts that Germany is negotiating with Belgium to lay a cable from Ostend to Portland, Me.

The great industrial exhibition at Hamburg, Germany, which has been in preparation since 1887, will shortly be opened.

The police at Paris have seized a number of letters from General Boulanger to the Boulangerist National Committee in the house of Mme. Bonlou.

It has been decided in Russia that women may be physicians; but they must confine their services to children and adults of their own sex.

The czar has bestowed a dowry of 1,000,000 rubles on Princess Militza of Montenegro, who has been betrothed to Grand Duke Peter of Russia.

The water-power of the Rhine is about to be utilized to work electric dynamos, which will distribute electric-power and light over a radius of fifteen miles.

In Paris, the Saccharine, or sugar made from coal, has been unanimously condemned by the medical profession, because it seriously troubles digestion.

Rents in Scotland are getting lower and lower. Four farms recently let in the South for the approaching term, brought less than half their former rent.

It is believed that three of Lieutenant Wissman's steamers have been lost on the African coast. Four German warships have been dispatched to look them up.

The Russian army is to be provided with breech-loading rifles which will carry a distance of 3000 feet. Noiseless powder will also be used in the future by the army.

Four hundred Silesian lace-makers have been at work for five weeks on a magnificent veil for the sister of the German Empress, who is about to marry Prince Leopold of Prussia.

The Belgrade correspondent of the London Daily News upholds the accuracy of his statement that Russia has proposed the immediate conclusion of a military convention with Serbia.

Mormon missionaries are circulating broadcast from the Millennial Star office in Liverpool a summary of Congressman Springer's report in favor of the admission of Utah to the Union as a State.

In sunny Italy the Royal Family suffer from chest diseases. The King has never wholly got over the attack of congestion of the lungs to which he nearly succumbed a few years ago, and the Crown Prince has a tendency to consumption.

Large subscriptions are reported toward building a railroad between Lower Falls, on the Congo river in Africa, to Stanley Pool, about two hundred and sixty-two miles. There are about three thousand miles of navigable water above Stanley Pool.

The Belgium Government is adopting every means in its power to frighten the enlightened and wealthier class from any disposition to yield to the popular clamor for universal suffrage. This was shown in the recent trial of men arrested for conspiracy at Mons.

Rukhmabai, the Indian lady whose refusal to live with her husband, to whom she had been married when an infant, created so much interest in India, has arrived in England with a view to entering the Women's Medical College, and pursuing a course of study there which will enable her to obtain the necessary qualifications to practice medicine.

THE PACIFIC COAST.

A DESTRUCTIVE FIRE AT VANCOUVER, W. T.

A Shipment of New Wheat—A Wild Steer Gores a Chinaman—The Debt of Los Angeles—A Desert-r Dro ned.

The California honey crop is short.

Los Angeles has repealed the dog tax. The Carson mint begins coining July 1.

Spokane Falls is to have a paid fire department.

Los Angeles will have a kennel show this week.

San Diego has arranged for a chess tournament.

Camping parties are numerous along Niles Valley.

Ed C. Wheeler, Mayor of East Portland, Or., is dead.

Walla Walla, W. T., wants to get rid of the Penitentiary.

The Platt-Alger Alaska party has started from New York.

The joint worm is injuring wheat in the San Joaquin Valley.

Spokane Falls' new water system was inaugurated on the 15th.

Everybody at Granite, M. T., is jumping land on the townsite.

Fires in the grain fields on Robert's Island have been reported.

Several cases of diphtheria have been discovered in Virginia City.

The creameries in Oregon and Washington have proven failures.

A wild steer gores a Chinaman at Colusa, last week, and killed him.

The walnut crop in Southern California promises to be very heavy.

San Diego is raiding physicians who are practicing without licenses.

The Bankers' Association of Washington has been formed at Tacoma.

A new Territorial University is about to be established at Moscow, I. T.

John Meyer, ex-Recorder of Placer county, died from paralysis on the 16th.

Bernardo Ganatino was killed by Anselmo Alexandro at San Jose on the 19th.

Henry Villard, while in Portland last week, would not talk to newspaper men.

A forest fire is reported near the Yolo and Lake county line in the mountains.

The entire business portion of Vancouver, W. T., was burned last Friday night.

The mole cricket has appeared in the potato patches at Burbank, Los Angeles county.

Port Townsend sent \$2000 worth of provisions to Seattle the morning after the fire.

The Oregon Pioneers held their seventeenth annual gathering at Portland on the 18th.

A confidence gang is reported to be working the trains between Fresno and Los Angeles.

George Winters, a highly esteemed citizen of Redding, died at Red Bluff on the 18th inst.

Charles Nelson, John Peterson's bosom friend, ran away from Fresno with Mrs. Peterson.

Louis Roth is suing his wife for divorce at Los Angeles for deserting him on his wedding night.

Santa Ana real estate has much improved in value since the election dividing Los Angeles county.

During the recent hot spell, the thermometer at Yakima, W. T., registered 110 degrees in the shade.

Frank Lautner, the indicted Los Angeles ex-Deputy Auditor, for forgeries while in office, has fled to Mexico.

To get clear of its debt, Los Angeles county will require a tax of \$40 for each person within its borders.

Sacramento has prohibited the building of wooden sidewalks. They must be of cement or patent stone.

A stage upset while racing near Wardner, Idaho, last week, and several prominent persons were injured.

D. Hakes of Santa Rosa, has hired twenty-five girls to pick his raspberry crop that covers seventeen acres.

Herman Meyers of Fresno, charged with killing a boy named Bronough in February last, has been acquitted.

The three days' shooting tournament of the Sportsmen's Association of the Northwest, opened at Tacoma last week.

Paul Harry, an Indian murderer, has been captured on the Cour d'Alor Reservation by Sheriff Martin of Rathdrum, Idaho.

Thomas Edwards killed Richard Gundry at Candelaria, Nev., last week. Edwards was subsequently released from custody.

The old City Hall at Sacramento threatens to collapse and jurors refuse to serve in the Police Court on account of the danger.

San Joaquin county hay-growers find it takes 40 per cent more Eastern-made rope to bale a ton than it does with California rope.

Mother Alphonsa Costello, Lady Superior of the Ursuline Academy in Santa Rosa, died on the 16th after a long illness of consumption.

A Chinese leper was discovered in the Sacramento jail last week. He was sent from Folsom for twenty days for refusing to pay poll tax.

Ten carloads of new wheat from the Marcuse ranch in Sutter county, California, were shipped to San Francisco from Marysville on the 14th.

Lottie Lee, aged 15, has obtained \$2500 in a damage suit against George Washington Shepherd, aged 60, at Sacramento. Both are colored people.

A masked highwayman stopped the stage at Forest Hill when about two miles from Auburn, on the 15th inst., but got nothing from the express box.

In the District Court at Butte, M. T., Dr. W. C. Harding has been found guilty of practicing medicine without a certificate from the Territorial Medical Board.

HOME AND FARM.

Top-Dressing Wheat in Spring—Millet and Hungarian Grass—Dairy Interest—Early Lambs—Bee Culture—Farm Notes.

There is a time when it is safe to prune most varieties of deciduous fruit trees, and that time is when the wood is ripe and while the tree is in a dormant condition.

In removing crops from the soil we take away plant food. This is the chief cause of soil exhaustion. Lack of fertility is commonly due in a large part or entirely to lack of plant food.

Cotton-seed meal will not do for hog feed, as the lint balls in the stomach, and cannot be voided. This objection to cotton-seed meal is not applicable to domestic animals other than the hog.

Bread for Soup: Cut slices of stale bread into small squares, throw in boiling lard and fry till brown. Skim out, drain, and put in soup tureen before serving the soup. For oyster soup, crackers crisped in the oven are nice.

If the space between rows of grapes is occupied by strawberry plants, currant bushes or weeds, do not wonder that the grapes do not ripen early. The sun's rays must reach the earth and keep it warm if early ripening is desired.

If beets or carrots are not up it may be that the ground was too cold when the seed was put in. It is better to replant than to lose the crop. They should be grown as stock food, and a large yield can be secured they will pay well.

Old ewes may be sold if the lambs are weaned. Only strong, vigorous ewes should be retained. Select those that yielded plenty of milk for the lambs for breeding purposes, and sell off the rams in order to infuse new blood in the flock.

If you dissolve bones by boiling them in a strong potash lye and then use dry earth or leached ashes as an absorbent, you get a fertilizer or compost, rich in both phosphoric acid and potash. It will contain also most of the nitrogen which was in the bones.

The liquid manure is more valuable than the solids, and a liberal use of absorbent material will aid in arresting its loss. It should be saved carefully, and a drain at the rear of the stalls should conduct it to some kind of a receptacle from which it may be pumped over the manure heap.

The early lambs are now in demand. Feed those that are not up to weight well and push them into market as soon as possible. A daily ration of two parts ground oats, one part corn meal, and a small proportion of linseed meal will be excellent for them. They should have a good pasture.

There is as much art in the work of improving the drones of a hive as to endeavor to secure better queens. Some swarms of bees are too inbred to endure hard winters. In the natural condition bees are hardy, but when their care is in the hands of the bee-keeper his judgment is important, and he can do much to add vigor to the swarms.

Chocolate Meringue Pudding: Boil one pint of rich milk, and a half teacupful of butter, one teacupful of sugar and three ounces of grated chocolate; let it boil and when cool add the whites of four eggs; pour this in a pudding dish lined with slices of sponge cake and bake; cover with meringue and let it brown. Eat with lemon sauce.

The dairy interests of the United States represent more than \$3,000,000,000. The number of milk cows is estimated at 24,000,000, which give an aggregate milk production of 7,350,000,000 gallons. Four billion gallons are used for butter; 700,000,000 for cheese and the balance for various purposes. The annual production of butter 1,350,000,000 pounds, and 6,500,000 pound of cheese. This immense dairy herd requires 100,000,000 acres of pasture land to support it.

The quick germination and rapid growth of millet and Hungarian grass permits the young plants to take possession of the soil, appropriate the available plant food and starve out every weed that appears. In fact, as weed destroyers both crops are unexcelled, and should any chance weeds secure places the mowing of the Hungarian grass cuts off the weeds and puts an end to them. For plowing under, as green manural crops, they are excellent, and the hay is usually clean and free from weeds. If grown for any other purpose than ridding a field of weeds the Hungarian grass crops are alone worth the labor bestowed upon it.

Top-Dressing Wheat in Spring: It is sometimes a good plan to top-dress winter wheat in the spring. It is better still doubtless to do the work in the fall, but manure is not then to be had, and if the wheat is all there after its winter's exposure it will pay to give it a further lift. Choose a time when the ground is either frozen or has thoroughly dried so it will not wash. Then draw the manure in a wagon provided with wide wheels. If the surface is dry the wheels will not sink in to hurt. The manure will greatly help the clover as well as the wheat. We have known farmers to find a profit in drilling in 150 pounds of superphosphate on the wheat in spring. The drill was driven so that its teeth cut the ridges between the rows made in drilling the seed the previous fall. In this case probably breaking the surface of the soil did nearly as much good as the fertilizer, as is proven by the benefit often received from dragging wheat fields in the spring.

If sheep are folded, and given attention, a crop of millet or Hungarian grass will be invaluable to them. Mr. Stewart, the well known authority on sheep, states that when the crop is eight inches high sheep may be allowed to eat off four or five inches. Hurdles should be used, and moved daily in order to avoid having the sheep eat too close to the roots. In this way it will grow anew, and cover the ground more completely than before. It is estimated that a good crop will produce about ten tons of green fodder per acre, and pasture fifty sheep from one to two months. It is advisable, for sheep pasture, to use Hungarian grass, and to hurdle the sheep in blocks of about twenty-five. Cows and horses are also fond of green food, and as the final cutting may be made late, a succession is had during the entire summer. It is not advisable to grow these crops where clover and other grasses are more suitable, but the advantage they possess is that of being sown late and growing rapidly, making their crops in a single season and during the warmest period of the summer as they delight in warmth and endure drought well.

PORTLAND MARKET.

PROSPECTS NOT SO ASSURING AS A MONTH AGO.

Provisions Firm—Fruits of all kind are Plentiful and Very Cheap—Very Little Doing in Dried Fruit—Fresh Meats Higher.

It is currently reported that in several sections east of the Cascades the excessive heat has severely injured the crops, and that prospects of another bountiful harvest are not so reassuring as